(c) what action has been taken by Government against those involved in the scandal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A three member Committee of police officers found on random check that the maintenance contractor of traffic signals/ blinkers had committed some irregularities; these included non-laying of cables and discrepancies in the length of the cables. Thereupon another Committee was constituted to check and physically verify each pending and future claim of the contractor, so that no over-payment is allowed. Delhi Police have informed that necessary deductions have been made before making payment to the contractor. Moreover, a show cause notice has also been issued to the contractor about the said irregularities.

Special Status to Orissa

1564. SHRI NARENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been received to declare Orissa as a special category State; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issue of declaring Orissa as a Special Category State is to be examined in the context of the Gadgil formula which is the basis for inter-state allocation of Central Plan Assistance. The Planning Commission, at present, is examining the suggestions/comments received from Chief Ministers regarding further revision of the said formula which was last revised in 1991 with the approval of the National Development Council.

Implementation of Assam Accord

1565. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated by Government for clause-wise implementation of the Assam Accord and the progress made, so far;

(b) the major constraints identified in the implementation of the Accord;

(c) whether Government propose to scrap the IMDT Act or to amend it in terms of the Assam Accord, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the achievements made, so far, in sealing of the Indo-Bangla Border?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Action has been taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. Central Government has also been holding tripartite meeting with Government of Assam and representatives of All Assam Students Union (AASU) to review implementation of various clauses of Assam Accord. Action taken so far to implement the Accord is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) Certain provisions of the Accord are of continuing nature e.g. speedy all round economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltration, crossing/ attempting to cross the border etc. and therefore need to be continously monitored.

(c) The scrapping of IMDT Act, 1983 is under consideration of Government.

(d) 779.58 km border fencing of sanctioned 896 kms. has been completed on Indo-Bangladesh Border upto March 31, 1998.

Statement

The Government of India is fully committed to the implementation of the Assam Accord, 1985, Various measures

have been taken in this regard. These include, inter alia, the following:—

Foreigners Issue

1. The Citizenship Act, 1955, Citizenship Rules, 1956 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, were amended.
2. Eleven Tribunals under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 have been created in Assam for identifying foreigners of 1966—71 stream.
3. Special Registration officers have been appointed. Sanction was also accorded for the creation of 1280 additional posts under the prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners Scheme.
4. Sixteen Tribunals under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 have been created in Assam.

Safeguards and Economic Development

5. Setting up of Srimati Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati is in progress. A sum of Rs. 10 crores has already been released.
6. Jyoti Chitraban (Film) Studio at Guwahati is being modernised and expanded.
7. Many important projects have been taken up for economic development of the State. The work on the Oil Refinery at Numaligarh is nearing completion. The gas based power project at Kathalguri would also be fully commissioned this year.
8. Two Central Universities, one at Tejpur and the other at Silchar, have been set up.
9. An IIT has been set up at Guwahati.

Other Issues:

10. The Power to issue citizenship certificates now vests only with the Central Government.
11. 84% of sanctioned border fencing of 158 kms. has been completed on Assam-Bangladesh border.
12. Ex-gratia payment was made to the next of kin of persons killed in the course of the agitation.
13. Disciplinary cases against employees in connection with the agitation were reviewed.
14. In the matter of recruitment, orders were issued by the Central Government for relaxation in upper age limit upto a maximum of six years in the case of candidates who had ordinarily resided in the state of Assam during the period 1.1.1980 to 15.8.1985.
15. NSA detenues detained in connection with agitation were released.

Traffic Signals in Delhi

1566. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many of the traffic signals have remained out of order in Delhi for several months despite the claims to the contrary by Delhi Traffic Police;

(b) whether it is a fact that maintenance of these signals is in the hands of the private individuals/ organisations who are paid huge sums for this purpose annually;

(c) if so, the annual expenditure on the maintenance; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to put these signals in good working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Delhi Police have reported that few traffic light signals remained out of order in Delhi for some period, due to frequent power failure, voltage fluctuation, break-down, theft of controller and its vital